



ORONOIA ECHO
1960

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The
RONDA ECHO

1950

Published By
THE RONDA HIGH SCHOOL
Ronda, North Carolina

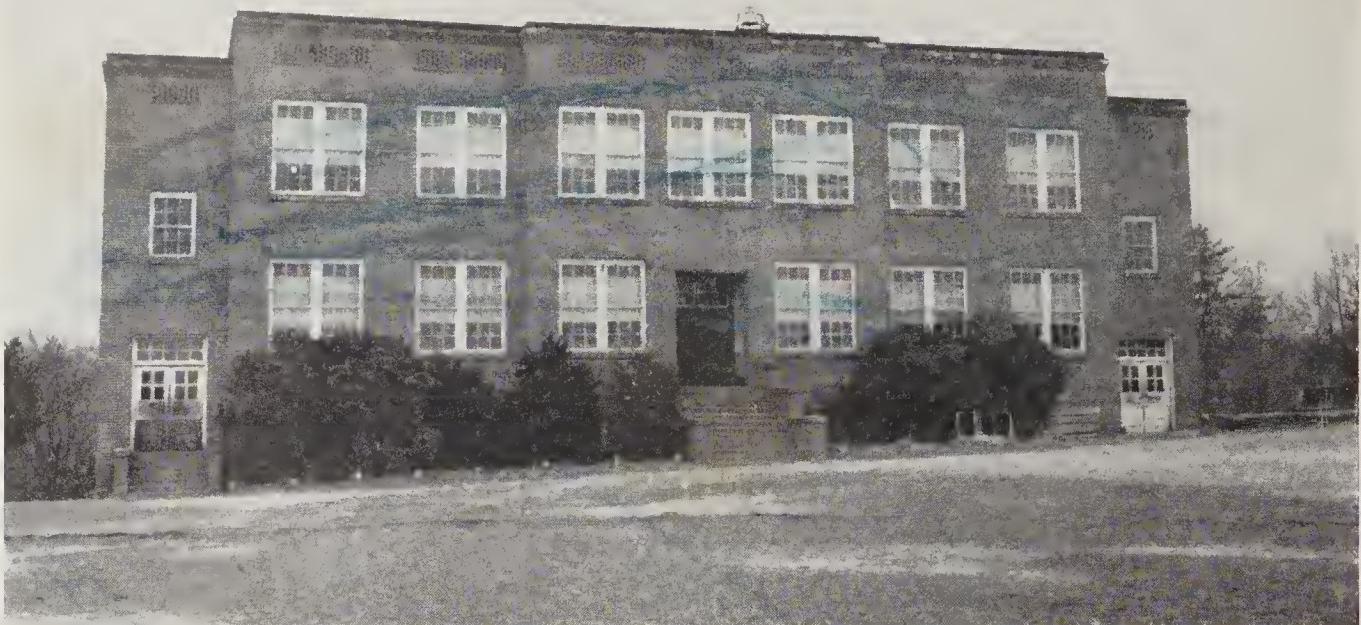
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Geraldine Cockerham, Editor

DEDICATION



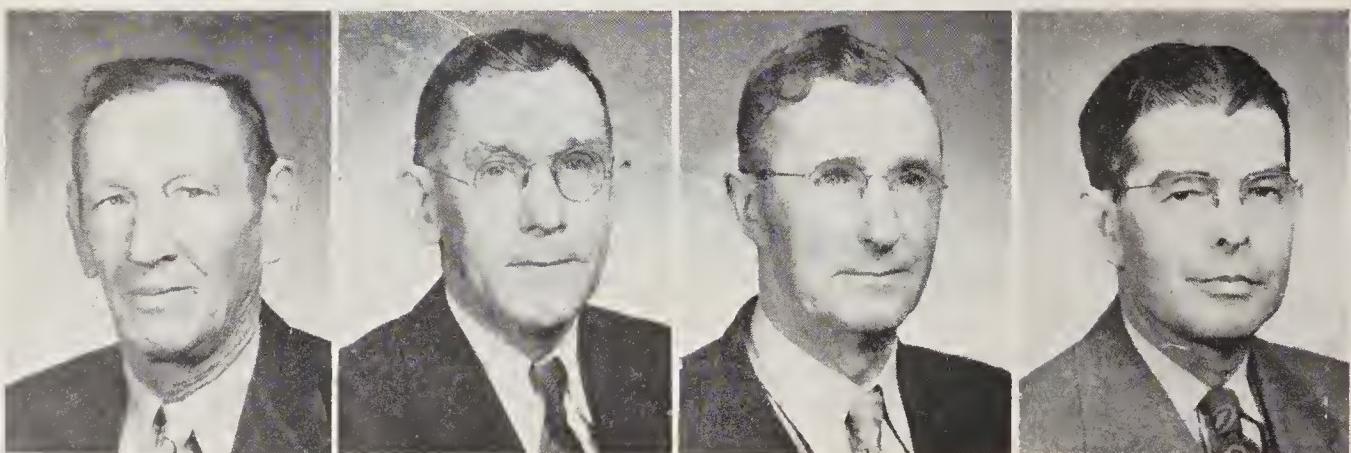
In sincere appreciation of her thirty years of service in Wilkes County schools, twenty-three of which have been in Ronda School, we dedicate this edition of *The Ronda Echo* to our eighth grade teacher,

MRS. ROBERT O. POPLIN, SR.



Ronda School Building

The Ronda School Board



Mr. W. S. Key
Chairman

Mr. G. C. Greene
Member

Mr. Paul Newman
Member

Mr. Glenn Gollifer
Secretary

Mr. Pholey Layell Not pictured

The Faculty



Mr. R. O. Poplin, Jr., Principal



Left: Miss Elvira Wood, Twelfth Grade.
Right: Mrs. Marie Blevins, Eleventh Grade.



Left to right: Miss Delsie Pack, Tenth Grade; Mr. Micheal Thurman, Ninth Grade; Mrs. R. O. Poplin, Sr., Eighth Grade; Miss Nora Laws, Eighth Grade.

*It's been good to
have you here this
year. Best of Wishes
Nora Laws*

The Faculty



Left to right: Mr. Jack Hadley, Seventh Grade; Mrs. Joy Walters, Seventh Grade; Mr. Dana Sale, Sixth Grade; Miss Zelle Harris, Fifth Grade; Mrs. Gatha Frazier, Fourth and Fifth Grades.



Left to right: Mrs. Ethel Watt, Fourth Grade; Mrs. Ella Anthony, Third Grade; Mrs. Eura Edwards, Second and Third Grades; Mrs. Helen Hendren, Second Grade; Mrs. Mary Louise Redding, First Grade.



Left to right: Mrs. Ruth Walls, First Grade; Mrs. F. T. Moore, Secretary; Mr. W. H. Triplett, Custodian; Mrs. Maude Dobbins, Lunchroom Manager; Mrs. H. A. Burchette, Teacherage Matron.

*Best wishes always
Lore M. B.*

SENIORS



John Hoots—President



Bobby Sizemore—Vice-President



Peggy Petree—Secretary



Mary Belle Howell—Treasurer



Wardie White



Warren White



Carniemell Wall



Dorothy Dimmette



Ivadine C. Walls



Geraldine Cockerham

SENIORS



Ethelene Baugess

Rose Lee Poplin

Dixie Blackburn

Melvorine Pardue



John Sparks

Nettie Dimmette

R. E. Felts

Grace Swaim



Minnie Mastin

Tommy McCann

Betty Hager

Class History

On August 19, 1946, the Class of '50, thirty-one strong, started its journey through high school. On the first day the entire student body assembled in the gymnasium for Mr. Spruill's welcoming speech. After this we filed back to the administration building and met with our new homeroom teacher, Mrs. May B. Pardue. At the end of the day we learned that we had a new principal, Mr. Robert O. Poplin, Jr.

We soon became accustomed to the new order of things and settled down to work. The routine was broken when we had a lively election campaign and Bobby Goliher was elected president of our class; Shirley Blackburn, vice-president; Mary Belle Howell, secretary; and Jocelyn Walls, treasurer. During the year three more boys and nine more girls entered our class, making a total of twelve boys and thirty-one girls, a grand total of forty-three.

In the spring of '47, a day was set aside on which the entire school went on picnics. Our class, in the back of a truck, went to Cumberland Knob Park, on the Scenic Highway. Before lunch we hiked around a five mile trail, called the Boone Trail. We had bought food and prepared it before we left school, and we roasted hot dogs and made ice cream after we arrived. On the way home we stopped at the Fish Hatchery, watched the fish for a while, and made pictures. When we arrived home, we were tired, but happy.

After vacationing for three months, thirty-nine members, twelve boys and twenty-seven girls, returned on August 25, 1947, as sophomores. At our first meeting we learned that our principal, Mr. R. O. Poplin, Jr., was to be our homeroom teacher. However, Mr. Poplin rarely had time to be with us, and Mrs. Ethel Moore, the school secretary, really served as our homeroom teacher.

Early in the fall, after some electioneering, we elected Peggy Petree president of our class; Shirley Blackburn, vice-president; Mary Belle Howell, secretary; and Jocelyn Walls, treasurer. During the year, Shirley moved away, and Bobby Goliher was elected to fill her post.

Before Christmas, members of the class and other invited guests enjoyed a class party, held at the home of Ivadine and Geraldine Cockerham.

Came the annual picnic day in the spring of '48, and one sunny morning we climbed in the back of Tommy McCann's truck and started on our adventure. What disappointment! Before we were off the school ground, we discovered the truck had a broken axle and we could not go to the mountains as we had planned. Determined that our fun would not be spoiled, we hopped aboard a passenger train in Ronda and went to Smoot Park in North Wilkesboro. We enjoyed the day despite our great disappointment.

Near the close of school, Mr. Poplin and Mrs. Moore gave us a weiner roast on the island below the bridge in the Yadkin River. Some of the boys in Ronda that owned motor boats took us over to the island.

Twenty-three of the original class, six boys and seventeen girls, returned as juniors in '48. This year, Mr. Henry Pepper was our homeroom teacher. After giving the matter due consideration, we again elected Peggy Petree, class president; Warren White, vice-president; Mary Belle Howell, secretary; and Melvorine Pardue, treasurer.

In the spring we gave a banquet at the Carolina Restaurant honoring the departing seniors. Other guests included our County Superintendent and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Eller; our Principal and his wife, and the high school faculty. Warren White served as master-of-ceremonies, and Wardie White gave the welcoming speech. Our guest speaker was Mr. John Wesley Clay. The Dutch motif was accentuated through the use of crepe paper, balloons, and tulips. Songs were sung by members of the Junior Class.

Near the close of school, we had a weiner roast at Smoot Park. Besides members of the Junior Class, our homeroom teacher and other invited guests were there. Later our report cards showed that all of us could come back as seniors.

Seniors at last! On September 5, 1949, twenty-two of us came back to finish our high school education. Our new homeroom teacher was Miss Elvira Wood. A few weeks after the opening of school, we elected our class officers as follows: John Hoots, president; Bobby Sizemore, vice-president; Peggy Petree, secretary; and Mary Belle Howell, treasurer.

After some lively voting, Wardie White, member of our Senior Class, was crowned Queen of our annual Halloween Carnival.

At Halloween, Mrs. O. P. Walls gave us a party at her home. Everyone came dressed in anything they could find, except those things in which they looked presentable. All had a wonderful time and behaved really good.

Under the supervision of Mr. Poplin and our faculty adviser, Miss Wood, we prepared our annual, *The Ronda Echo*, for publication.

In April, the juniors gave us a banquet at the Wilkes Hotel. Also in April we presented our class play entitled *Bolts and Nuts*.

At last came the long-awaited main event of our high school careers—graduation. Our Baccalaureate Sermon was preached on Sunday, May 21, 1950, in the Ronda Methodist Church. Then our high school careers came to a glorious end on the evening of Friday, May 26, 1950, in the Ronda Gymnasium.

Class Prophecy

Yesterday, on my way home from school, I decided to take a stroll down by the river. It was very warm and I, suffering with spring fever, was very lazy and drowsy. In a grove of willows I found a large bed of moss and, being able to resist everything but temptation, I lay down. In a few seconds, I found myself riding on a fleecy cloud. Finding that my cloud would start, stop, and turn when I wished it too, I took off into the "wild blue yonder."

My first stop was Richmond, Virginia. Here I visited Wardie White, who was now singing and dancing with the Metropolitan Opera. After seeing Wardie perform, I felt a yearning for the wide open spaces. I put my cloud in high gear and soon found myself drifting over Charleston, West Virginia. Stopping here I found that Bobby Sizemore had given up the idea of becoming a farmer and had signed up with the Yankees and was taking Joe Dimaggio's place at centerfield.

My cloud and I presently drifted on to Washington, D. C. Here I visited two old friends, the first of whom was Melvorine Pardue, now a stenographer. Melvorine and I dropped in to see Warren White, now a prominent citizen of Washington, D. C. He was in charge of the "Rogue's Gallery," and was having a time keeping up with all the rogues from Wilkes and the surrounding counties.

The next town I drifted to was Philadelphia. Here I was welcomed by Peggy Petree. Peggy was all excited over a football game which she carried me to see. Of course the star player was "Choo Choo." While in Philadelphia I stayed in Hotel Swank, the swankiest hotel in the state. You can imagine my surprise and pleasure, when upon registering, I found Carniemell Wall acting as desk clerk.

I now decided I must go see my friends in the world's largest city, and soon I was on my way to New York. Here I first visited one of my old friends, Grace Swaim. I met her future husband. He runs a safety pin factory and is stuck. While in New York, I really had an exciting time visiting with Grace Swaim, John Hoots, Mary Belle Howell, Tommy McCann, and John Sparks.

John Hoots, now a lawyer, was trying to get Mary Belle Howell a divorce from her husband. I got to talk to Tommy McCann, now the heavyweight champion of the world, for only a few minutes, as he was so busy preparing for a 15-round bout with John Sparks in Madison Square Garden.

As I started my cloud once again, I turned my radio on and heard a familiar voice. As I kept listening I found that it was the voice of R. E. Felts. He told all about his new job and just how he had become owner of a radio station in Brooklyn. I kept listening until the news of the world came on. I heard that Miss Geraldine Cockerham, a great pianist, was scheduled to play for Vaughn Monroe in Hollywood on Saturday night.

My cloud now turned south and carried me to Winston-Salem. Here Ethelene Baugess greeted me. She was now a famous beautician. On the day I visited her she was giving manicures and pedicures to Rose Lee Poplin and Nettie Dimmette, who were preparing for a screen test. Ethelene told me that she had planned to employ Minnie Mastin and Betty Hager as assistant beauticians.

On the last leg of my return trip home I stopped in Elkin to see Dorothy Money. I was surprised indeed to find that Parks Money had finally returned and that he and Dorothy had moved into their new home.

Only a few more miles—and then—sweet home. I brought my cloud down close to the ground ready for a landing. Swoosh!—Who?—What? Oh!—just Dixie Blackburn and Avery Pardue in a new Cadillac convertible, covered with streamers and signs bearing, "just married."

Suddenly the cloud on which I was riding began parting and I found myself falling down, down, down. Where am I? Oh! Now I remember—it was only a dream.

Class Prophet, Ivadine C. Walls

Class Will

We, the members of the Class of 1950, having reached the end of our high school careers, and finding that we are still of sound mind and memory, do hereby declare the following to be our Last Will and Testament.

Nettie Dimmette bequeaths her quiet disposition to Katherine Burchette.

We, Dorothy Dimmette and Ivadine Cockerham, leave our position as the senior married women to Patsy Myers and Jo Ann Johnson, who are eternally on the verge.

Wardie White wills her Fridays at home to Bud Durham.

Melvorine Pardue wills her brown eyes to Emma Jean Couch.

Dixie Blackburn wills her ability to keep quiet in class to Hope Tharpe.

Geraldine Cockerham leaves her love for "blues" to Eleanor Petree.

Tommy McCann leaves some of his height, weight, and muscles to Herbert Settle.

Warren White leaves school bus No. 11 to H. C. Roberts, providing he agrees neither to get stuck nor to tail-spin.

Rose Lee Poplin leaves her position as saleslady in the school supply store to Lucy Barker.

Minnie Mastin bequeaths her honor of never having missed a day in school to Polly Childress.

Grace Swaim wills her desire to become an old maid to anyone who is looking forward to a rosy future.

John Sparks leaves his love for football to Edward Greene.

Carniemell Wall wills her musical ability to Louise Wishon.

Betty Hager wills her trim figure to Betty Anthony.

R. E. Felts leaves his ability to keep his mouth shut to Roy Gray.

Mary Belle Howell leaves her pretty, long, black hair to Imogene Woodruff.

John Hoots leaves his position as class president to Charles Gilliam.

Ethelene Baugess wills her ability to stay out of school one day every week and still pass to Doris Pardue.

Peggy Petree bequeaths her ability to just barely get inside the homeroom door before the last bell rings to Dickie Martin.

Bobby Sizemore bequeaths his unusual ways to David Luffman.

We, the Senior Class, bequeath our sweet, blond, homeroom teacher to that mysterious man whom we know nothing about.

We believe that we have acted in the most generous and impartial fashion in the distribution of our possessions and ask that they be accepted and used to the best advantage of those receiving them.

This, the Last Will and Testament of the Senior Class of 1950, drawn up, signed, and sealed by us on this the 29th day of May, at Ronda, Wilkes County, North Carolina.

Testator, Peggy Petree

Eleventh Grade



First row, left to right: Bobby Durham, President; Richard Martin, Vice-President; Dorothy Osborne, Secretary; Edward Green, Treasurer; Roy Gray, Eleanor Petree.

Second row: Hope Tharpe, Doris Pardue, Louise Wishon, Emma Jean Couch, Morris Brown, Susie Durham.

Third row: Betty Anthony, J. L. Edwards, Jo Ann Johnson, Pat Myers, Imogene Woodruff, Edith Roberts.

Fourth row: Pauline Houck, Polly Childress, Betty Jo Cook, C. A. Burchette.

Tenth Grade



First row, left to right: Charles Gilliam, President; Kenneth Barker, Vice-President; Audine Church, Treasurer; Herbert Settle, Peggy Ann Baity, Lucy Barker.

Second row: Minnie Sue Prevette, Tommy Wall, Louise Foster, Naomi Roberts, Warner Hoots, Betty Dimmette.

Third row: Nell Rumble, Lucy Stroude, Joe Felts, Mary Elizabeth Foster, Lee Brown, Jean Chambers.

Fourth row: Clyde Adams, Hope Lankford, Kate Lewis, Katherine Burchette, Roger Edwards, Junior Brooks.

Tenth Grade



First row, left to right: Bobbie Jean Anthony, Louise Cockerham, Bobby Gilliam, Barbara Ann Dimmette, Jimmie Calloway, Doris Swaim.

Second row: Phillip Collins, Ruth West, Dennis Barker, Jean Hemric, Jake Weems, Jeanette Vanhoy.

Third row: Bobby Pardue, Eria Shore, Gayle Durham, David Luffman, Blaine Lewis.

Ninth Grade



First row, left to right: Wanda Pettyjohn, President; Nancy Poplin, Secretary; Geraldine Casey, Vice-President; Betty Jo Durham, Treasurer; Betty Jean Pardue, Avery Luffman.

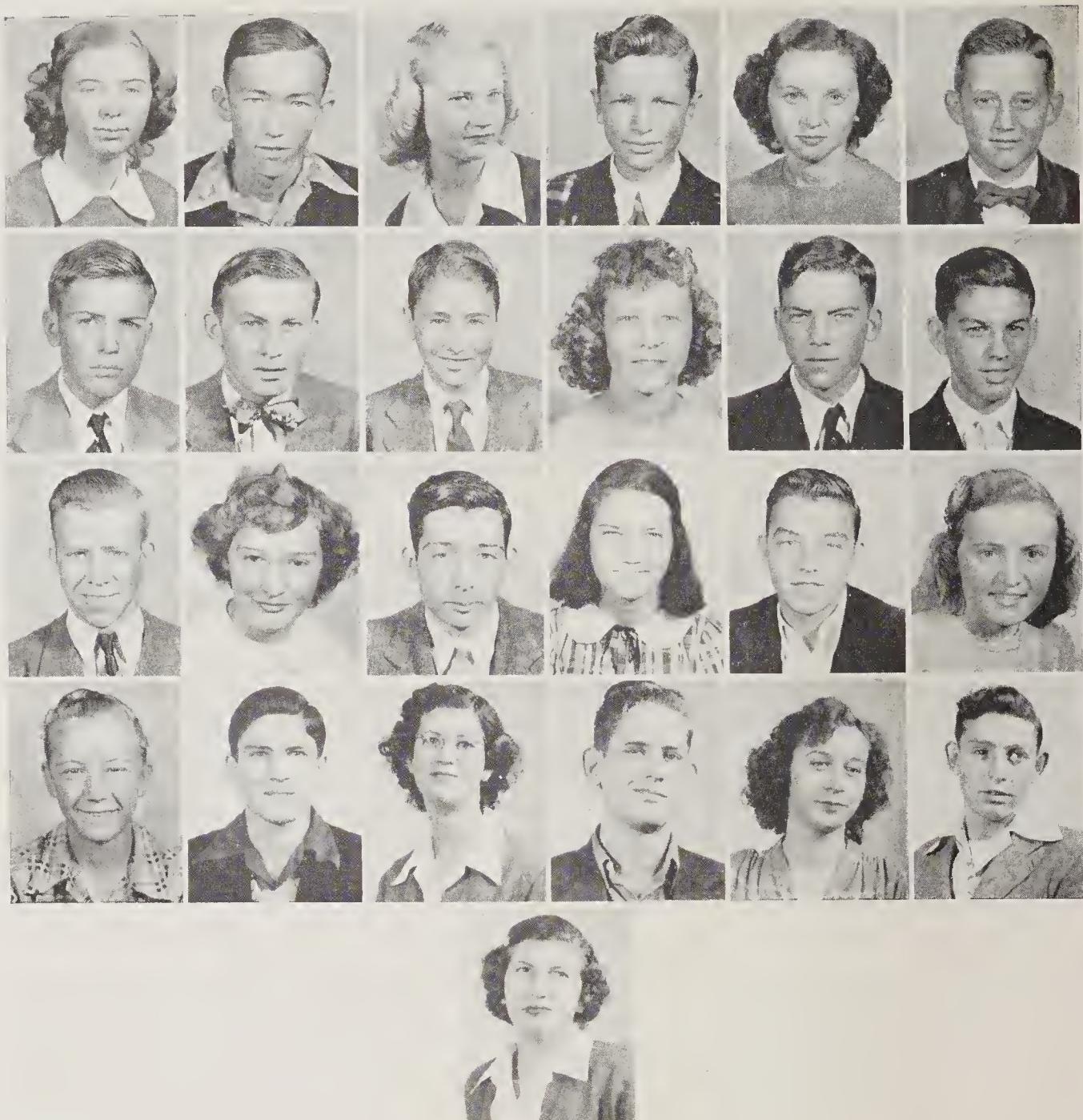
Second row: Agnes McCann, Garvey Couch, Claris Dean Sparks, Clayton Shore, Mildred Inscore, Louis Tharpe.

Third row: Jeanette Hemric, Earl York, Betty Foster, Sam Alexander, Doris Day, Beulah Woodruff.

Fourth row: Frankie Wishon, Naomi Luffman, Mitchell Mastin, Jinnie Yarboro, Clyde Laster, Donald Billings.

Fifth row: Betty Wiles, H. C. Roberts, Margaret Mathis, E. J. Anderson, Faye Barker, William Billings.

Ninth Grade



First row, left to right: Peggy Walls, Robert St. John, Hazel Pruitt, Granville Burchette, Levora Couch, Clyde Pardue.

Second row: T. D. Carter, Bobby Dimmette, Roscoe Sparks, Hettie Jenkins, L. G. Welborn, Albert Howell.

Third row: Junior Barker, Jessie Ruth Ashley, Gilbert Brown, Frankie Lankford, Bobby Pardue, Ruby Pardue.

Fourth row: Clyde Gray, Max Key, Claris Dean Sparks, Jessie Hayes, Daisy Durham, Glenn Collins.

Fifth row: Clara Dale McCann.

Elementary Grades

Mrs. Ruth Walls—First Grade



Mrs. Mary Louise Redding—First Grade

Mrs. Helen Hendren—Second Grade



Mrs. Eura Edwards—Second and Third Grades

Mrs. Ella Anthony—Third Grade



Mrs. Ethel Watt—Fourth Grade

Mrs. Gatha Frazier—Fourth and Fifth Grades



Miss Zelle Harris—Fifth Grade

Mr. Dana Sale—Sixth Grade



Mrs. Joy Walters—Seventh Grade

Mr. Jack Hadley—Seventh Grade



Miss Nora Laws—Eighth Grade



Mrs. R. O. Poplin, Sr., Eighth Grade



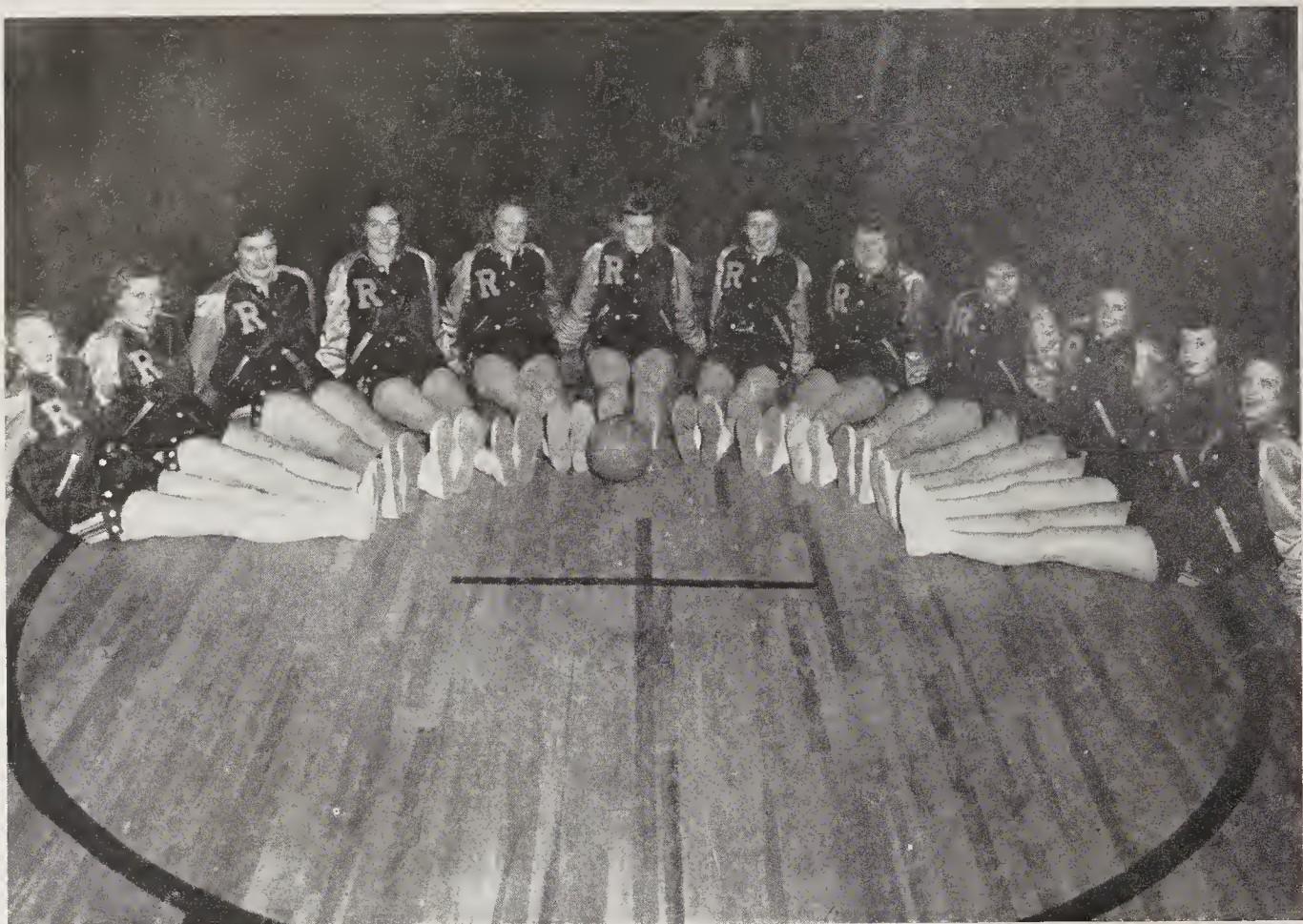
Cheer Leaders



Home Economics Building



Chow Line



Girls' Basketball Team



COACH
Miss Delsie Pack

Left to right:

Betty Jo Cooke
Barbara Dimmette
Louise Cockerham
Minnie Sue Prevette
Lucy Barker
Katherine Burchette
Betty Lee Anthony
Hope Tharpe
Peggy Ann Baity
Betty Jo Durham
Bobby Lee Anthony
Patsy Myers



SCOREKEEPER
Ivadine C. Walls



Boys' Basketball Team

First row, (nos. are those on jerseys): No. 5, Bobby Sizemore; No. 8, John Sparks; No. 10, Edward Greene; No. 6, Warren White; No. 9, Bobby Durham.

Second row: No. 3, Earl York; No. 11, L. G. Welborn; No. 12, H. C. Roberts; No. 7, Max Key; No. 4, David Luffman.



COACH
Mr. Michael Thurman



SCOREKEEPER
C. A. Burchette



The Annual Staff

Left to right: Geraldine Cockerham, Editor-in-Chief; Mary Belle Howell, Assistant Editor; Ivadine C. Walls, Art Editor; Emma Jean Couch, Co-Art Editor; Peggy Petree, Business Manager; John Hoots, Production Manager; Wardie White, Social and Literary Editor.

Not pictured: Miss Elvira Wood, Faculty Adviser.



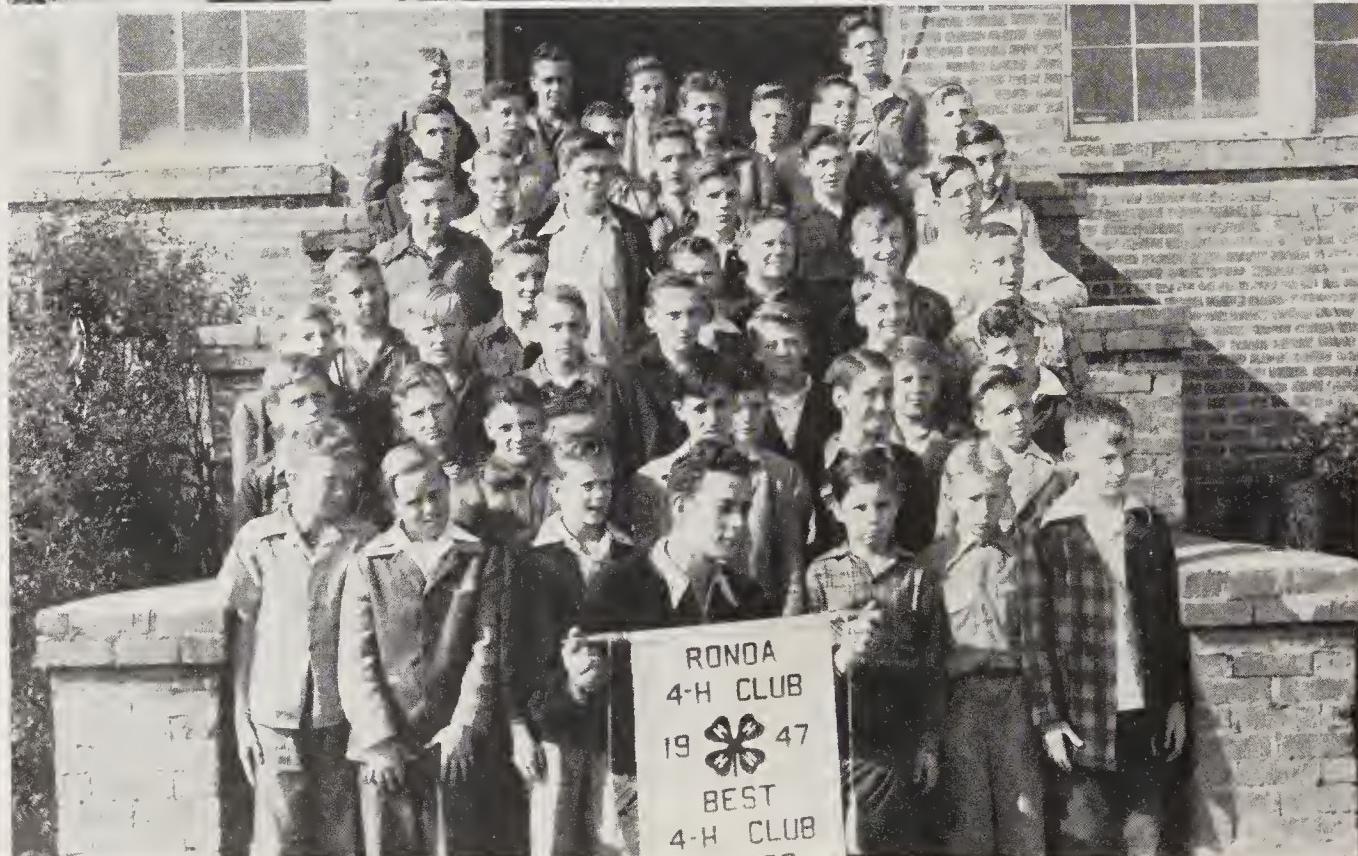
BARGAIN BASEMENT



Above: Football
Below: Lunchroom Staff

Above: Swings
Below: Bus Drivers

Girls' 4-H Club



Boys' 4-H Club



King and Queen
of
Halloween
Carnival

Bobby Durham
and
Wardie White



Dorothy Osborne
Representative in Soil Con-
servation Speaking Contest.



Halloween Carnival



Warren White
Representative in "I Speak
For Democracy" Contest.

Office Force

Mr. R. O. Poplin, Jr.
Principal

Peggy Petree
Dixie Blackburn

Warren White
Mrs. F. T. Moore



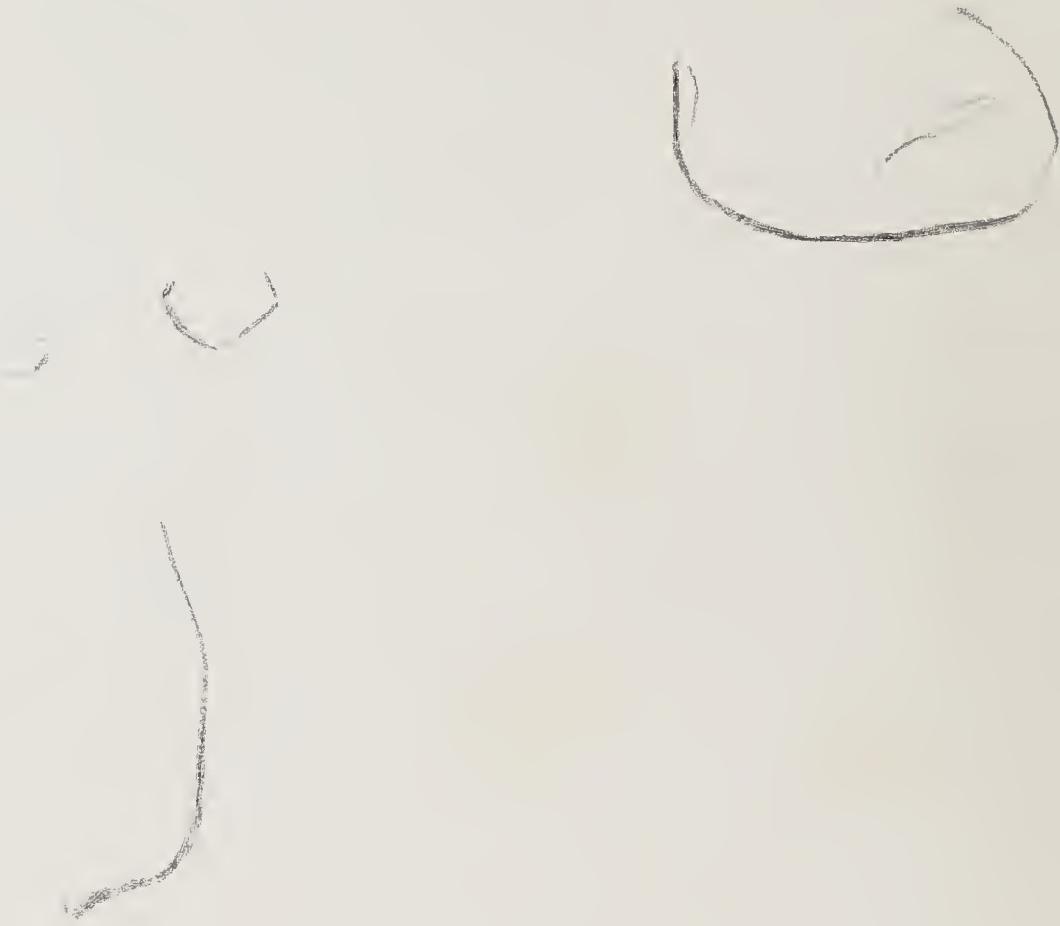
Library Staff

Seated, left to right: Hope Langford, Lucy Stroude, Wardie White, Ivadine C. Walls.

Standing: Mary Belle Howell, Pauline Houck, Imogene Couch, Eleanor Petree, Mrs. F. T. Moore, Librarian.



Top: Lunch room; *Center:* Teacherage; *Below:* Gymnasium.



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Best Wishes to a very sweet teacher.
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